THE SUN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 1908

A Comie Opera Performance at Wallack's With Several Curious Effects and a 13-Curtain Call for the Man in the hief Role -"Hamlet" Hardly a Beauty

was Polonius, that is, the chamberlain of the veteran Edwin Varrey was the chief event of "Hamlet," out of which the Hamlet had dropped, leaving nothing but the rim. We relinquish to entomologists the task of explaining the reason why hot weather fetches from their winter lairs all the queer eestatic, exotic and comical apparitions that hire theatres in the springtide and say foolish things before the footlights. There was no reason why Mr. Russell should not essay the part of the melancholy Dane before his friend from India, the Maharajah; but why in New York, why at

We recall Mr. Russell slightly as a lecturer on "precious" subjects lined with Tyrian A decade ago he was pensivebough always well-fed, an amateur of rare costly sensations, and evidently—like the character in the old play—a man ike the character in the old play—a man of feeling. Every one has a tic, a crack within the cortical cells somewhere; Mr. Russell's is Hamlet. He believes there are shades upon shades of the character unexplored. He has evidently read the sonnets in the light thrown upon them by contemporary psychologists. His ideal of Hamlet is more feminine than Sarah Bernhardt's, who was—pardon the slang—absolutely "husky" in the rôle compared to the Russell Sistine choir version. Indeed, vastly to paraphrase Coleridge—Russell's "Hamlet" is read in a flash of Kraft-Ebing.

deed, vastly to paraphrase Coleridge—Russell's "Hamlet" is read in a flash of Kraft-Ebing.

However, it was Mr. Varrey's afternoon. Not even the swarm of swarthy Swamisfor they were both oleaginous and sibilantwho sat in boxes and passed flowers across the orchestra to the coy Russell, could attract the attention of the house from Varrey's Polonius, which on this occasion fairly loomed to heaven by sheer contrast. Mr. Varrey underlined his speeches; he seemed to be enjoying a joke that he could harely keep to himself. His audisnoe recognized this and the climax came when Mr. Russell was called out thirteen times and made a frightened speech. As he is a man of intelligence and an Englishman he must have appreciated the irony of the cries for a speech. He has doubtless been in London at a "first night;" this accounted for the grudging way he took the call. He seemed in an agony of expectation and the curtain man—also in the humorous vein yesterday—could not get the protecting medium down quickly enough.

In this comic opera Mr. Russell was the airy soprano; the gliost a De Reszke; better say a Carl Formes hasso projundo who chanted sepulchrally his lines; the First Player, a daring tenor and the contralto—everybody was alto. When we discovered the rent in the star's tights, we foresaw a new reading. It came not. Some gossip had them sewed up before the third act. Naturally analysis balks at the amateurish action, effeminate poses and various eccentricities of the Hamlet. One of the most characteristic actions was the patting down of the pillows on the player King's couch.

centricities of the Hamlet. One of the most characteristic actions was the patting down of the pillows on the player Ring's couch. It revealed a taste for the neat and sweet in the House Beautiful of Russell's life. We had expected much in the matter of costumes, rare, exoteric, soulful. But Russell was content to dress conventionally. Nor was his vaunted personal beauty on view.

Nor was his vaunted personal beauty on view.

His make-up about his ankles sagged despendingly and his legs did not prove either subtle or poetic. The face, especially in profile, has a Neronic cut; it is decadent—as the slang goes; though it does not register upon the dial its surging wealth of emotion within. This gentleman may be a millionaire of moods; to the world he is far from charming or mobile in expression. Perhaps the best thing he did during the afternoon was his mounting the steps of the throne; that revealed fundamental brain work. Otherwise his conception was piffling, his voice nasal and monotonous. His elocution is of the "cheeping" order.

In the company were William Hazeltine, Edward Brigham, Guy Bates Post, Frank McEntee, Louise Morewin, Jane Schenck and Doris Mitchell.

There were many surprises. An audience

and Doris Mitchell.

There were many surprises. An audience that guyed; footlights that had the jumps slow, shaky "curtains"; an enthusiast who whistled in the darkened auditorium, and a ghost who went off like r gasolene "auto" when he disappeared. But Papa Varrey was the star of the show and there were moments when he seemed about to speak of his "cagle brain," so much like "Uncle" Barnabee did he look. The one grand compensation of the affair was the absence of an orchestra, though a solitary trumpet unhousebroken did the honors for the King's "rouse." On Friday afternoon Mr. Russul will repeat his notion of Hamlet with wrung withers.

NEW YORK FESTIVAL CHORUS. its Performance of Mendelssohn's "Fit jah" at Carnegie Hall.

The New York Festival Chorus is an orgamization brought into existence by Tali Esen Morgan, conductor, out of heteroin the Young Men's Christian Association and kindred bodies. Its aims are good and its disposition entirely amiable. Just what it expects to accomplish beyond the cultivation of good music for its own sake does not appear, and probably signifies nothing. This chorus was heard last night at Carnegie Hall in a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah," and was applauded by a considerable audience which see be readily affected by a large body of tone. It would probably be more than unkind to apply the customary standards of criticism to the New York Festival Chorus, but the facts must be recorded. The chorus is strong in basses, has a small but fairly good lot of tenors and is well supplied with sopranos and contraitos who do not sing well at all. The sopranos especially produce a thin, strident and undignified quality of tone, and cannot move comfortably in the regions above the treble clef.

comfortably in the regions above the treble clef.

Precision of attack and unanimity of movement are not yet in the catalogue of accomplishments of this body of singers; but one merit it certainly has, and that is vigor. The chorus sings out with spirit and confidence, and in the broader mass effects of "Ellijah," such as "Thanks be to God, for he laveth the thirsty land," it performed well and aroused the enthusiasm which usually follows stirring numbers.

The soloists employed last night were Mrs. Zimmerman, soprano; Alice Sovereign, contralto; Evan Williams, tenor; and Gwylim Miles, barytone. Mrs. Zimmerman's tones were particularly penetrating, and Mr. Williams's were more than ordinarily husky. If the two could have hit an average, they would have been admirable. Mr. Miles, who has learned to repress much of his tendency to force his big voice, sang excellently. It was a wonder that he did so, for such an accompaniment as he had to battle with is seldom heard in a New York concert hall.

Mr. Morgan conducted from a piano.

concert hall.

Mr. Morgan conducted from a piano score with numerous and demonstrative gestures, but none of them seemed to be a context.

of much value to the orchestra, which ambled along in a sort of go-as-you-please fashion. However, there is probably ground for congratulation that we have another chorus "in our midst." From it singers may be recruited for noble uses. Valley, who has since the recent death of Chancellor George Doane O'Neill of the Catholic diocese of Newark, been serving as chancellor, has been permanently appointed to that position. Father Wallace was the chancellor under the late Bishop Wigger, but resigned to become rector of the Orange church. Father Wallace will be succeeded in Orange Valley by the Rev. John S. Boylan, rector of St. Mary's Church, Franklin Furnace. Fathers Wallace and Boylan were both educated and ordained at Seton Hall College in 1884 under Bishop Wigger.

"Du Barry" in Berlin.

David Belasco's "Du Barry" is to be produced at the Theater des Westens in Berlin next Friday. Ambassador Charlemagne Tower has accepted an invitation to occupy the state box. Mme. Helbne Odilon, who will appear as the etar, goes to the German capital direct from the Volketheater, Vienna, where she has been playing "Du Barry" with great success. This Berlin production of "Du Barry" will mark the first preentation in Germany of a play by an American author.

HARVARD SIGNS CONFISCATED.

SAVES SMALL LIVES, HE SAYS.

A Physician's Warm Praise of Nathan

Straus's Milk Charity.

Prof. Rowland G. Freeman, M. D., who spoke at the meeting of the Medical Society at 17 West Forty-third street, on Monday

night, on "The Reduction of Infant Mor-tality in the City of New York," devoted

considerable part of his paper to praise

of Nathan Straus for the milk charity which

JUST IN FROM THE ORIENT.

Tigers, an Elephant, Monkeys, Snakes and

A consignment of wild animals from

India, part of the cargo of the steamship Bucrania, unloading at the Bush stores,

foot of Forty-first street, south Brooklyn.

yesterday, caused a great uproar and at-tracted considerable attention. The roars

A HUMMEL-LEVY WAR.

Two Lights of the Legal Profession Wrangle

Over Amelia Bingham's Case. Amelia Bingham, the actress, was in

Special Sessions yesterday afternoon to prosecute Graham Rice, the manager and

editor of the Daily America, whom she

WILTON LACKAYE IN "THE PIT."

william A. Brady signed a contract yea-terday to star Wilton Lackaye, who has been playing with Amelia Bingham, in "The Frisky Mrs. Johnson," for fiveyears. Mr. Lackaye will star next year in an adap-tation of Frank Morris s "The Pit," which Mr. Brady and Channing Pollock will write. The wife of an English actor-manager, said to be Mrs. Charles Wyndham, is to be asked to take the leading woman's part.

German Comedy for the East Side.

by Ludwig Fulds, was presented in the auditorium of the Educational Alliance

last evening by the Irving Place Theatre stock company. The cast included Miss von Osterman, who gave the large audience a pleasing interpretation of the leading rôle. The affair was a financial success.

Loie Fuller is to give several new dances

to-night before an audience composed solely of the members of the National Arts Club, which later is to show her collection of statuary. The dances to be given tonight will follow classical music played by Ward Stevens.

kidish "Merchant of Venice" on Broad-

Jacob Adler, who has been playing Shakespearian rôles in Hebrew at Bowery

Theatres for six years, is to be seen at a Broadway theatre. He will play the "Mer-chant of Venice" in Yiddish.

Pather Wallace Chancellor of Newark.

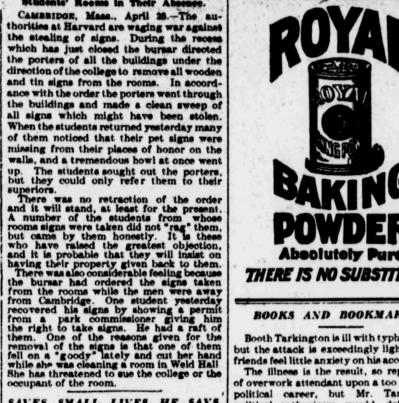
SOUTH ORANGE, N. J., April 28 .- The

Rev. Thomas A. Wallace, rector of the Church of Our Lady of the Valley, in Orange

Valley, who has since the recent death of

"Unter Vier Augen." a German comedy

he has carried on since 1893.



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THE OLD RELIABLE

out the attack is exceedingly light, and his friends feel little anxiety on his account.

The illness is the result, so report says, of overwork attendant upon a too strenuous political enthusiasm would defy worse things than typhoid. It is said that his literary work in the near future will reflect his absorbing interest and will deal with political life and conditions.

Clara Morris's health has improved, chiefly as a result of the benefit, which lifted a crushing load of anxiety from her mind. In the rebound toward strength she is beginning a new book, which will differ widely from anything she has hitherto written and concerning which her publishers are distinctly optimistic.

James Lane Allen's now novel is to be called "Crypts of the Heart." The title of another Kentuckian's new novel is also "Oldfield's" successor "Round Anvil Rock."

of Nathan Straus for the milk charity which he has carried on since 1893.

Prof. Freeman said that in 1893 the rate of mortality among little children was one in six, whereas now it is much less, and that where, ten years ago, the rate was 240 in 1,000, it is now 158. After telling of the good which several societies have accomplished, he said

"Another important factor was in supplying a proper food to the bottle-fed babies by the Straus milk charity. Started in 1893, the year in which the decline in deaths began, with an output of 30,000 bottles, and in 1895, 600,000 bottles of inspected milk.

"The output then remained much the same until last year, when milk was certified by the Milk Commission of this society and was examined by the members, and the demand reached the great total of 1,200,000 bottles. This enormous increase in distribution is being accompanied by a diminution in infant mortality.

"This city certainly owes to Mr. Nathan Straus a great debt of gratitude for inaugurating and carrying out at his own expense this most valuable aid to our tenement babies." If either of these books should meet with striking success, Kentucky's appreci-ation of its own literary product will be-come hysterical. "Mrs. Wiggs" and "Lovey Mary" disturbed the severe poise of the Louisville reviewers, and there are others, though none of Louisville's lesser lights can rival Mrs. Alice Caldwell Hegan Rice's rumored \$25,000 in royalties.

A writer in a Louisville paper quotes a New York publisher as saying that "we no longer think of Indianapolis and Indiana first when we have our fingers on the map of the Middle West, but of Louisville. Do the deities upon Hoosier hills nod? Will they stand for this heresy?

The Century Company claims the honor of having discovered literary Louisville, but now all New York publishers plead for Louisville copy. It has been suggested that the authors from other States, headed by the erstwhile mighty ones of Indiana, parade in protest, bearing banners and transparencies inscribed with "Down with Kentucky!" "Perdition take the Cabbage

Apropos of the "Cabbage Patch" and its prophet, Mr. and Mrs. Cale Young Rice will go abroad in May.

tracted considerable attention. The roars of tigers, the trumpeting of an elephant, the chattering of monkeys and the screams of all kinds of birds and small animals created a medley not at all musical. The Bucrania is Just in from Calcutta after a long voyage. Three elephants, 100 monkeys, 26 boxes of snakes and hundreds of birds died on the way. Extreme cold alternating with too much heat caused the death of the animals and birds. The survivors were bundled onto trucks and wagons and sent to William Bostels, a dealer, in Greenwich street. Manhattan.

Besides the animals and birds the ship brought a score of Hindoos, jugglers, acrobats and magicians, consigned to Glen Island for the summer. At last a really practical and satisfactory guide to Europe has been prepared. Let the Baedekers blush redder than usual and hide their diminished heads.

Col. Newnham Davis has published, through Grant Richards, a gourmet's guide to Europe. The author and a fellow gourmet have lunched and dined in all the neeks and corners of all the well-known. nooks and corners of all the well-known European cities, and they have written down for the benefit of tourists with an interest in gastronomy all that they dis-

> Yvette Guilbert's "Les Demi-Veilles" is exciting much comment and is selling well. Its author is said to be seriously ill in Germany.

charges with criminal libel because the paper printed an article saying that her husband had beaten her.

Abe Levy, who appeared for Rice, wanted an adjournment, but Abe Hummel, who appeared for Miss Bingham, asked for an immediate examination and characterized the article as "very villainous."

"Oh, we're not talking to the press agent," Mr. Levy broke in. "Be a lawyer and not an advance agent for a theatrical troupe."

Peace was restored and things were going along smoothly when Levy broke out again and said: "I'm not a theatrical lawyer. I'm not an advance agent for any theatrical lady. We are charged with criminal libel in that we printed a statement that this woman was beaten by her husband and we il come pretty near proving it, too."

Justice Mayer adjourned the examination to Friday and paroled Rice in the custody of his counsel. A new pitfall has been dug for the un-wary reviewer. The early books of suc-cessful authors are launched in new editions reviewer whose memory fails to keep record of all the books of yester year may quite possibly deal with the republished book as one entirely new.

Molly Elliott Seawell's "Children of Destiny" has had this distinction. Only a short time ago Kenneth Grahame's "Dream Days," in its new edition, was nailed by a writer in a leading literary magazine as an eagerly and long-awaited new book from the pen of the author of The Golden Age."

Reports of Herbert Spencer's feeble health distress his admirers. He has been confined to his bed for weeks and is carefully guarded from even the slightest ex-W. H. Brady Is to Make Him the Star in

Vagabonds," is a ragabond of sorts himself. He is only 25, but has had a life crowded full of unusual experiences and will surely never want for copy.

He is a California man, and published little paper out there when he was 14; but at is he ran away from home. Since then he has roamed the world over and tried many callings, but the love of the sea is in his blood and he has spent years as a sailor before the mast. Western and Eastern seas are alike familiar to him. He has been a captive among Filipinos. He has held a lumber job in Seattle. He has been a newsaper reporter. Now he has written a ook which makes a fair bid for success.

The superior masculine attitude toward the woman's college looms large in recent called "When Patty Went to College" ap-peared. It deals with the lighter and more rivolous side of life at the woman's college. Patty couldn't be recommended as a model to soulful young women bent upon attaining the higher education, but the stories are amusing, humorous, well told

and by no means juvenile.

Reviewers galore have spoken of it as "a story of school life" for girls. One or two unrelenting men have even referred to the book as "When Patty Went to School." Here indeed is indignity. Patty went to

allurements and turning their imaginations loose, with scientific facts for comrades. Prof. Simon Newcomb, author of "Astronomy for Everybody" has written for McClure's Magazine a fiction tale called "The End of the World."

It is an up-to-date story, with New York as its centre, and the world dies suddenly. as science proves that other worlds have

Another well-known scientist, Prof. L. P. Gratacap of the American Museum of Natural History, has published a work of fiction curiously interwoven with scientific fact. The book is called "The Certainty of a Future Life in Mars," and purports to be PUBLICATIONS.

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The novelist who writes a novel around a prevailing fad has an excellent chance of a hearing. Henry Holt & Co. announce that "The Lightning Conductor," an automobile romance, is in its fifth edition.

John H. Finley, formerly professor of John H. Finley, formerly professor of politics at Princeton and now president of the College of the City of New York, is as well known in the literary field as in the educational world. He made the money he needed to put himself through Knox College by setting type, and was president of that college when he was 29.

Since then he has been associate editor of Harper's Weekly and of McClure's, has contributed to the leading magazines, and was, with Richard T. Ely, author of "Taxation in American States and Cities."

The Peril and the Preservation of the Home, a new book by Jacob Riis, will be published by George W. Jacobs & Co. of Philadelphia.

Fined 65 for Filrting.

George Bush, a wealthy business man of Union Hill, N. J., was fined \$5 by Recorder Murphy yesterday for attempting to flirt with High School girls on the Hudson 50C.—Smollett's Peregrine Pickle, Roderick Ran dom Humphrey Clinker. Any book. Stop in. PRATT, 181 6th av.

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